



HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY PERMIT MODIFICATION (CLASS 3)

It is DTSC's mission to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



INTRODUCTION

The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has prepared this fact sheet to provide information on a proposed class 3 modification to a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for the United Technologies facility located at 600 Metcalf Road, San Jose, California.

The Hazardous Waste Permit is required by the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and by the State Health and Safety Code. These statutes require all facilities which store, treat, or dispose of **hazardous waste** be permitted. DTSC is authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to enforce RCRA regulations. DTSC issued a permit to United Technologies in 1997. The facility has applied to DTSC to expand their hazardous waste operations (see Project Description). The proposal to modify the permit does not alter the type of hazardous waste, but does allow for more storage and treatment. The modification of the permit would not extend the life of the permit which is ten years from the date of initial issuance. The permit expires in the year 2007. (**Items in bold are defined on page 3.**) The draft documents are available for public review. See listings on the back page.

Notice of Public Comment Period

DTSC will hold a 45-day public comment period on the Draft Modified Hazardous Waste Facility Permit and CEQA Initial Study/ Negative Declaration for United Technologies Corp from:

May 16, 2003 through July 3, 2003

DTSC encourages all interested parties to comment or ask questions. The comments received will be considered in the final permit decision. DTSC will make the final decision based, in part, on public comments. Mail written comments by July 3, 2003 to:

Andrew Berna-Hicks, Project
Officer
Department of Toxic Substances
Control
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, California 94710

Phone—(510) 540-3956
E mail—ABernahi @ dtsc.ca.gov
Fax—(510) 540-3937

No public hearing is scheduled at this time. A hearing will be considered if one is requested.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION AND OPERATIONS

United Technologies Corporation, Pratt and Whitney Space Propulsion (UTC) occupies approximately 5,113 acres in the Santa Clara foothills and is approximately 14 miles southeast of downtown San Jose. The site is within the city limits of the city of San Jose. The area is rural and landuse around the site includes animal grazing and parkland.

Operations at UTC includes manufacturing and testing of solid rocket motors. A major part of the manufacturing process is the mixing, casting, and curing of solid fuel rocket motor propellants. Hazardous waste is generated primarily from three activities: manufacturing, research and development, and site remediation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In summary, the modifications requested would: 1) authorize storage of hazardous waste in excess of 90 days, 2) add a chopping device to reduce the size of large pieces of hazardous waste, 3) add a shredder to further reduce the size of hazardous wastes, 4) allow treatment of propellant and explosive wastes with water, glyceryl triacetate and other solutions to lower the reactivity of waste, and 5) allow adjustments to the waste stream descriptions and amounts to more closely reflect operations at the facility.

Additional treatment methods proposed to be added to the permit include chopping and shredding of propellant wastes into smaller pieces. The chopping and shredding would primarily be used on wastes before they are fed to the Hydrolysis Treatment Unit. Having the wastes reduced to smaller sizes aids in the chemical breakdown of the propellant wastes as they are exposed to concentrated sodium hydroxide. Shredding and chopping also would be used for wastes prior to transport to off-site treatment facilities. The maximum allowable throughput for the shredder and chopper would be 1,000 and 10,000 pounds per day respectively.

The Permit would be modified to authorize storage in excess of 90 days of **energetic** wastes in three

storage magazines. The storage **magazines** currently exist and are located in a remote area and are dug into the side of hill to reduce the potential for human injury in the event of an explosion or fire. The maximum allowable storage capacity for the three **magazines** would be 3,960 gallons. In addition, the main storage facility would increase its storage capacity by 1,820 gallons for non-explosive wastes.

Storage and treatment of hazardous waste are carried out within areas which have secondary containment. No radioactive wastes are proposed for storage over ninety days or for treatment at the facility.

The current maximum permitted hazardous waste capacities for the facility are:

Storage in containers: 22,000 gallons liquid and 200 cubic yards for solid.

Storage in tanks: 15,000 gallons

Hydrolysis treatment: 200 pounds per day.

LAND USE/ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Land Use - Land to the northeast and southeast of the site is ranchland used for grazing. To the northwest is a regional park and open public land. Directly to the west is additional regional park land. Parcels are required to be a minimum of 20 acres. Exceptions to the agricultural use are the Motorcycle Park and public lands to the northwest. The nearest residences are a few ranch houses or other dwellings located within 3000 feet to the north, northeast and southeast of the UTC property boundaries.

Surface Water: Four creeks run through the site. These creeks are Shingle Creek, Mixer Creek, San Felipe Creek, and Las Animas Creek. All run-off from the facility runs south and empties into Anderson Reservoir which is approximately one-half mile south of the facility. Anderson Reservoir is a municipal and domestic water supply source for Santa Clara County. Low level contamination (mainly perchlorates) has been discovered in the creeks and is currently under remediation under the oversight of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Groundwater and Soil: Groundwater and soil at various locations within the site are contaminated with organic contaminants as a result of past operations at the facility. Contamination consists of a variety of volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds. The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board is the lead agency overseeing site-wide soil, surface water, and groundwater remediation. A soil vapor extraction system is operating to remediate soil contamination in the central area of the site. Groundwater is being pumped and treated using air strippers.

PERMITTING HISTORY

The facility began operations in 1959. United Technologies was issued RCRA interim authorization in 1981 to operate the Container Storage Unit and the Open Burn Pit. A permit was issued to operate the Container Storage Unit in 1983. The Open Burn Pit continued to operate under the interim authorization until it was shut down in 1997 and is currently undergoing closure. DTSC amended the interim authorization in December 1995 to allow construction and operation of the Hydrolysis Treatment Unit. Both the Container Storage Unit and the Hydrolysis Treatment Unit were included in the renewed permit issued in 1997. United Technologies has applied to the DTSC to modify this permit as detailed in the Project Description section of this fact sheet.

United Technologies submitted an application for a class 3 permit modification to DTSC in June 2000. This application has been amended per DTSC requests for technical revisions. The current version being considered for renewal is dated September 2002.

COMPLIANCE HISTORY

The facility is inspected on the average of once every year by DTSC. The last inspection was completed in April 2002. This inspection resulted in the facility being cited for several minor violations, including failure to adjust closure cost estimates and associated financial assurances. These violations are being negotiated between DTSC and the facility.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

DTSC is the Lead Agency under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (**CEQA**) for this project. DTSC has prepared an Initial Study for this project and concluded that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. A draft Negative Declaration, as well as the Initial Study is available for public review and comment (see back page). A notice of Determination (NOD) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse upon completion of the formal permit appeal process.

PERMIT MODIFICATION

The Hazardous Waste Facility Permit issued to the facility in 1997 was a ten-year permit. This modification will not extend the life of the permit. Permit modifications must follow the requirements of the Cal Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 66270.41-42 and 66271.14. This modification is considered a Class 3 modification and therefore requires an initial public notice of 60 days which ran from January 22, 2001 through March 23, 2001. A notice was published on January 22, 2001 in the San Jose Mercury News and also mailed to the DTSC approved mailing list. A public meeting was held on February 6, 2001. No comments were received.

Glossary

1. **CEQA**-California Environmental Quality Act. Requires that a study be done on a project to determine that it will not have an adverse impact on the environment.
2. **Hazardous Waste**-Solid, semi-solid, or gaseous wastes which pose a potential threat to public health or the environment and are known to be ignitable, corrosive, reactive, and / or toxic.
3. **Magazine** – a storeroom for explosives.
4. **Energetic** – Materials prone to rapid burning or explosion.

Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Jacinto Soto, Departamento de Control de Sustancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (510) 540-3842.

For More Information

If you would like more information about the Site, please call Andrew Berna-Hicks, Project Mgr, at (510) 540-3956 or Jesus Cruz, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (510) 540-3933. For media questions, call Angela Blanchette, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (510) 540 –3732.

Information Repositories

The draft modified Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, permit modification application, and CEQA Initial Study/Negative Declaration, which are part of the Administrative Record for the site, are available for public review at the following location:

Morgan Hill Public Library
17575 Peak Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA
(408) 779-3196

The full Administrative Record for this site is available for public review at the following location:

DTSC File Room
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 540-3800

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can obtain additional information about the Site by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378)

Jesus Cruz
Department of Toxic Substances Control
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Berkeley, California 94710-2721